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Precedence: R

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From: DOD, ARMY, ORGANIZATIONS, AHRC, HRC AG(UC), HRC MILITARY AWARDS BR(UC)

Subject: Changes to the Combat Badges

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A. HQDA Letter 600-05-1, Changes to the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Combat Medical Badge, and the Establishment of the Combat Action Badge

1. The purpose of this message is to announce that the Chief of Staff, Army approved changes to the combat badges. These changes are effective immediately and will be incorporated in the upcoming revision of AR 600-8-22.

a. Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB). Paragraph 8a(1)(a), ref A, is amended to read: Effective 18 September 2001--A Soldier must be an Army infantry or special forces officer (SSI 11 or 18) in the grade of colonel or below, or Army enlisted Soldier or warrant officer with an infantry or special forces MOS, that satisfactorily performed duty while assigned or attached as a member of an infantry, Stryker, ranger or special forces unit of brigade, regiment, or smaller size, or an advisor in an equivalent coalition unit, during any period such unit was engaged in active ground combat, to close with and destroy the enemy with direct fires.

b. Who may award. Paragraph 8e, ref A, is amended to read: The CIB, CMB and CAB may be awarded by any commander delegated authority by the Secretary of the Army during wartime or the CG, USA HRC. Effective 1 November 2006, Commanders delegated authority to award the CIB, CMB and CAB may further delegate badge authority to Commanders in the grade of Brigadier General or above. Combat Badges will be announced in permanent orders.

2. Retroactive awards will be made to fully qualify Soldiers based on ref A and the above criteria. Requests for retroactive awards should be submitted as follows:

a. Active duty and Reserve Component Soldiers should submit their request through the first Brigadier General commander in their chain of command to U.S. Army Human Resources Command, ATTN: AHRC-PDO-PA, 200 Stovall St., Alexandria, VA 22332. The request should be submitted on a DA Form 4187 and include supporting documentation and a copy of the DD Form 214 (if applicable).

b. Veterans, Individual Ready Reserve, members of the other Services, and foreign military personnel should submit a written request directly to U.S. Army Human Resources Command, ATTN: AHRC-PDO-PA, 200 Stovall St., Alexandria, VA 22332. The request should include supporting documentation and a copy of the DD Form 214.

3. Questions pertaining to this message should be forwarded to the Military Awards Branch at DSN 221-8700 or commercial (703) 325-8700. Future updates can be found on the Military Awards Branch website,  
<https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/TAGD/awards/index.htm>.